

REMARKS

Applicants thankfully acknowledge the allowance of claim 25, and the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2-4, 7, 11-16 and 24 as set forth in the Office Action.

Applicants have amended the claims in a manner to reflect the subject matter indicated as allowable. In particular, claims 2 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. Such amendments are believed to overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. Additionally, claim 10 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 11, 13 and 15 in a Markush format, and their respective dependent claims have also been amended accordingly. Claims 1, 5-6, 8-9, 11, 13, 15 and 26 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of subject matter commensurate in scope with these cancelled claims in separate continuation or divisional applications.

In view of the above amendments of the claims to conform with the allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are therefore respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this amendment or wish to discuss any of these issues in further detail, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative by telephone at 412-471-8815.

Respectfully submitted,

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